

To: Perla, Donna[Perla.Donna@epa.gov]
Cc: Mortensen, Ginah[mortensen.ginah@epa.gov]; Galloway, Carol[Galloway.Carol@epa.gov]
From: Carleton, Ron
Sent: Wed 4/13/2016 6:45:44 PM
Subject: RE: Chairman Conaway wants answers from EPA for funding recent anti-farmer campaign

Yes ... the committee sent me a copy of the letter.

Ron

From: Perla, Donna
Sent: Wednesday, April 13, 2016 2:43 PM
To: Carleton, Ron <Carleton.Ron@epa.gov>
Subject: FW: Chairman Conaway wants answers from EPA for funding recent anti-farmer campaign

FYI

From: Mortensen, Ginah
Sent: Wednesday, April 13, 2016 2:07 PM
To: Perla, Donna <Perla.Donna@epa.gov>
Cc: Galloway, Carol <Galloway.Carol@epa.gov>; Carbone, Chad <Carbone.Chad@epa.gov>
Subject: FW: Chairman Conaway wants answers from EPA for funding recent anti-farmer campaign

Ginah Mortensen

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Attorney Advisor

Compliance Policy Staff

Monitoring, Assistance, and Media Programs Division

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Director, EPA National Agriculture Center

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<http://www.epa.gov/agriculture>

From: House Committee on Agriculture [<mailto:agrepulicanpress@mail.house.gov>]
Sent: Tuesday, April 12, 2016 3:42 PM
To: Mortensen, Ginah
Subject: Chairman Conaway wants answers from EPA for funding recent anti-farmer campaign

	PRESS RELEASE
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	April 12, 2016
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 12, 2016

Haley Graves

(202) 225-2171

Chairman Conaway wants answers from EPA for funding recent anti-farmer campaign

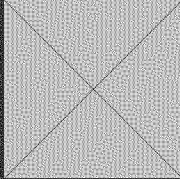
Today, House Agriculture Committee Chairman K. Michael Conaway (R-TX) sent a letter to Gina McCarthy, Administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), requesting information regarding EPA's \$3 million cooperative agreement with the Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission that funded an advocacy campaign attacking farmers and ranchers in Washington State. The advocacy campaign includes billboards, bus placards, and a website that encourages the public to contact their state lawmakers using a pre-written email. According to a recent news report, EPA has acknowledged that the use of EPA financial assistance to fund this campaign was a violation of federal law.

"While this advocacy campaign is troubling, we are even more concerned that it appears to be part of a broader pattern of mismanagement of federal funds at EPA," Chairman Conaway wrote in the letter. "The cooperative agreement with the Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission is one of many awarded as part of EPA Region 10's Puget Sound Action Agenda. When viewed in context with the EPA OIG report and the recent GAO legal decision, the 'What's Upstream' campaign seems to be merely the most recent

indicator of a lack of appropriate oversight at EPA.”

[The full text of the letter can be viewed here.](#)

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